

TO THE KINGS Most excellent Majestie.

The Humble Petition of the Inhabitants of the
County of Bickingham.

SHEWETH,



HA T your Petitioners by vertue of your Highnesse writ, having chosen *John Hampden*, Esquire, Knight for our shire, in whose loyalty and wisedome, we his Country-men, and Neighbours have ever had good cause to confide: how ever of late to our no lesse mazement, then grieve, wee find him with other members of Parliament accused of Treason. And having taken to our serious consideration the maner of their impeachment, we cannot (but under your Majesties favour) conceive that it doth so oppugnethe Rights of Parliament (to the maintenance whereof our Protestation binds us) that wee beleive it is the malice (which their zeale to your Majesties service, and the state hath contracted in the enemies to your Majesty, the Church, and Common wealth) hath occasioned this fowle accusation, rather then any desert of theirs, who doe likewise through their sides wound the judgement, and care of us, your Petitioners, and others, by whose care they were presented to the House.

Year Petitioners therefore most humbly pray, that Master Hampden, and the rest, that lye under the burden of this Accusation, may enjoy the iust priviledges of Parliament.

And your Petitioners will ever pray, &c.

His Majesties Answer to this Petition,

at the Court at Windsor, the 13. of January 1641.

His Majesty being graciously pleased to let all his Subjects understand his care, not (knowingly) to violate in the least degree any of the priviledges of Parliament, hath therefore lately by a Message sent by the Lord Keeper, signified that hee is pleased (because of the doubt that hath beene raised of the manner) to wave his former proceedings against the said Master *Hampden* and the rest, mentioned in this Petition, concerning whom his Majesty intends to proceed in an unquestionable way; And then His Majesty saith, it will appeare, that hee had so sufficient ground to question them, as hee might not in Iustice to the Kingdome, and honour to himselfe have forborne: And yet His Majesty had much rather that the said Persons should prove innocent then be found guilty; how ever he cannot conceive that their crimes can in any sort reflect upon those his good Subjects, who elected them to serve in Parliament.

Edward Nicholas.

His Majesty taking notice, that some conceive it disputable, whether this proceeding against the Lord *Kimberly*, Master *Hollis*, Sir *Arthur Heselrig*, Master *Pym*, Master *Hampden*, and Master *Stride*, be legal, and agreeable to the priviledges of Parliament, and being very desirous to give satisfaction to all men, in all matters that may seeme to have relation to priviledges, is pleased to wave his former proceedings; And all doubts by this means being settled (when the mindes of men are composed) His Majesty will proceed thereupon in an unquestionable way; And assures this Parliament, that upon all occasions, hee will bee as carefull of their priviledges, as of his life or Crown.